

The Bell

March, 2018

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

We are now in the season of Lent – 40 days, not counting Sundays. Like the radical swings we have been experiencing in our weather, Lent moves us through wild changes in our emotions. Always the path leads us toward Jerusalem and the week where we face the greatest ups and downs of life, death, and new life. We need Lent and look forward to Easter to be reminded once more of the road - the path ahead. It is a path that leads to salvation through Jesus Christ; the path laid out through God's love for us.

During worship each Sunday we are celebrating The Covenants: the promises that God made with God's people. The theme for Lent is The Covenants of God Flowing like a River. There is a river flowing through the sanctuary and each Sunday celebrates one of those covenants.

February 18 – Theme: baptism renewal – Symbol: Noah's ark.

February 25 – Theme: God's covenant with Abraham - generational blessing – Symbol: pictures of families.

March 4 – Theme: God's glory – Symbol: pictures of the universe - stars

March 11 – Theme: God's steadfast love – Symbol: time or infinity – hour glass, infinity sign.

March 18 – Theme: God's covenant, God will put His love in our hearts – Symbol: Hearts

March 25 – Palm Sunday – Theme: Passion week play – Symbol: Palm

April 1 – Easter Sunday – Theme: Resurrection.

In the early church, there was no season of Lent and no Commemoration of Good Friday in the way we know it today. Christians met for worship on Saturday at 6 p.m. and continued in fasting, prayer, and meditation through the night until about 3 a.m. on Sunday, when they celebrated the Lord's Supper (Eucharist). Later the practice of fasting was extended to include Friday. This too created a period of 40 hours in which to remember the time during which Jesus' body lay in the tomb. Later still, this period of fasting was extended further to include all of Holy Week. It wasn't until the year 600 that the fast was extended to include 40 days prior to Easter. It was observed as a time that corresponds to the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his public ministry.

Every Wednesday during Lent there is Video/Discussion on Lenten topics of forgiveness, struggle, living with regret, and on the Bible "Real?, Relevant?, Reliable?". Please join for a meal followed by Video/Discussions led by Mitch and Jeannette.

Holy week is the culmination of Lent and we will be celebrating with several worship services.

March 25 Palm Sunday/Passion - During this worship service, we will be telling the story of holy week. Each day of holy week will be laid out by a storyteller. Items which will help us visualize the day will be brought and set on the communion table.

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March 29 Maundy Thursday - The Maundy Thursday service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church at 7 PM. It is the celebration of the first Communion. On this day before His crucifixion, the Lord sat at table with His disciples and told them of His sacrifice. The bread broken symbolized His broken body; the wine symbolized His blood shed for the forgiveness of sin. This story will be reenacted.

March 30 Good Friday - Every year, Chippewa Falls commemorates Good Friday with an ecumenical service at one of the Protestant churches in town. This year it will be led and held at First Presbyterian Church. Pastors and singers from Our Saviours' Lutheran Church, Central Lutheran Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, Zion Methodist Church, English Lutheran Church of Bateman, and Christ Episcopal Church will join us at 7 PM. There will also be a morning service at the Chippewa Manor at 10 AM.

April 1 Easter Sunday - Easter will begin with an amazing and intimate sunrise worship service at the Reich's house overlooking the lake. This holy time will be celebrated with breakfast, prayer, and communion.

We will hold our traditional Easter service at 10:15 am. Our Lenten journey will have taken us through a variety of turns when we pause and reach deep within ourselves to find our connection once again with this most important event, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

In Christ,

Pastor Karel

FPC HOLDS ANNUAL FEBRUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting was held February 11 at which time the 2018 budget was presented, a change was approved to the church by-laws, the 2018 Nominating Committee was elected and the remaining position on the Financial Review Committee was filled.

In an effort to bring our church by-laws into line with the fiscal requirements of Presbytery and our own budget, the congregation voted to review and vote on the pastor's call at the stated December meeting rather than at the supplementary February meeting. This change will allow us to notify Presbytery by year-end of the terms of the pastor's call for the coming year and include those figures in our own budget.

Carmi Simonson volunteered to join the Financial Review Committee bringing its membership to the required three.

The following members were elected to the 2018 Nominating committee: Gene Peissig, Margi Kohl, Anne Welke, Jinx Smith and Corine Boos. They will be joined by two members of Session to be elected at their next meeting.

SESSION AND DEACONS HOLD PLANNING RETREAT

Members of Session and the board of Deacons met for their annual retreat in February. It is during this day-long meeting that the major goals of the church are determined for the coming year.

This year the goals are:

Determine the future of our church. What kind of church are we now? What do we want to be in the future? How do we get there?

Increase membership. How do we increase our membership while giving care to our existing congregation? How do we make worship at FPC more exciting and motivating?

Increase our presence in the community through outreach. What do we need to do? Who do we need to reach? Who will do this?

You will be hearing more in coming months about the future of our church from the Retreat Committee.

Jean Peissig has taken on the formidable task of stewardship and increasing membership and she is looking for help since this isn't something she can or should do alone. Please contact her if you are interested in helping with the project.

Community Outreach has fallen to the Communications Committee of Gary Shorrel, Lynda Butek, Tiffany Wogahn and Corine Boos. This is the first group to meet and they have already come up with some concrete steps to move this goal forward.

Gary is exploring our possible involvement with the Chamber of Commerce. We had dropped our membership but want to determine the current costs and how membership might benefit us in the future.

Gary is also investigating the possibility of having business cards printed which we could distribute in the community.

Lynda is pursuing the cost of a new sign on the north wall facing Gordy's parking lot. This sign would be a permanent one in addition to the banners and the electronic sign we now have and it would let people know what church we are. It's amazing given how long we have been here that there are many people in the community who don't know where the Presbyterian Church is located.

Tiffany is pursuing ways of keeping our website up to date.

These are only some of the projects the group decided to work on this year. You will hear more about all of them in the near future.

FPC TO BUY EASTER LILIES

The church will order a dozen Easter Lilies which will adorn the Chancel on Easter morning. These flowers can be purchased by the congregation as we have in the past. At this moment, we don't know the cost of each plant but last year it was \$9.00 and will probably be somewhere in that vicinity again this year. If you wish to order plants, we can notify you when we know the exact price. We will not order plants on your behalf until you have verified the price you wish to pay.

Watch the bulletin for order forms which will have the current cost.

EASTER BRINGS SPRING BONNETS

It's time to pull out your Easter bonnets, Ladies, and spruce them up for Easter Sunday when Gene Peissig is again sponsoring the Easter Bonnet Contest.

As we did last year each lady who enters her hat for consideration will have her name placed in, what else, but the "hat". The winners will be drawn and Gene is donating cash prizes to CareLink for the three hats selected.

Prizes are \$30 for first place, \$20 for second and \$10 for third. In addition, the Gene is donating \$1 to CareLink for every entry in the contest and would welcome matching donations. Every year the number of hats worn increases so this year we should have a bevy of beauties.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go out to those having March birthdays and/or anniversaries.

March 3	Karen Beighley
March 6	Robert Hoover
March 7	Abigail Owen
March 8	Mark Borofka
March 10	Jinx Smith
March 11	Carla Ingalls
March 13	Jan Koepke and Jerry Giedd
March 14	Chris and Chuck Norseng and Louise White
March 16	Pat Andress and Jeannette Miller
March 17	Larry Stevens
March 20	Traci Anderson and Anfin Anderson
March 22	Andrea Brovold
March 27	Carol Ament
March 28	Gene Peissig

EASTER LILIES

We are now taking orders for Easter lilies that will grace the chancel on Easter morning, April 1. Please fill out the order form. Return to the church office as soon as possible. Submit your order:

- 1) during office hours (9:00 to 2:00 Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday)
- 2) by mailing to the church
- 3) or, put order in the offering plate on Sunday

The plants may be picked up after the Easter service but we would like to keep most of them to adorn the sanctuary for Ellen Devine's memorial service on April 8. The plants not picked up at that time will be distributed in the community.

I want to purchase (how many) _____ Easter Lilies for display in our church during Easter.

I would like designation(s) in the church bulletin to read:

In Memory of:

1) _____

2) _____

In Appreciation for:

1) _____

2) _____

In Celebration of:

1) _____

2) _____

(other title) _____:

1) _____

2) _____

From:

Return to:	First Presbyterian Church	Phone: 723-5717	Amount Paid \$ _____
	130 West Central Street		CK#
	Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729-2345		Cash

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

A special offering for One Great Hour of sharing will be taken on Easter Sunday. This ministry provides relief to those affected by disasters, food for the hungry and support toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.

32% of these funds go to helping restore communities after disasters while 36% goes to reducing hunger and the remaining 32% to providing resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities.

If you would like to participate in this offering, you can make your contribution anytime during March or even early April. Donation envelopes will be available in the bulletin and pews during March.

SCRIP CARD NEWS

Now that Gordy's is once again offering scrip cards, they have expanded their generosity through May.

Normally we receive 5% from Gordy's on every card we sell but from March 1 through May 31, we will receive 8% on every card purchased through the church.

\$1,000 in cards now gets us \$50 but for this three-month period, that same \$1,000 in purchases would net us \$80.

How can we miss with this program? We can miss if we don't participate. We have several regular customers but for the most part, most of us don't buy the cards. Why? No idea. Purchasing groceries through the program doesn't cost us one cent more than paying with cash or a credit card. But it does put money in the church's bank account.

We all eat. We all buy groceries. If we purchase scrip cards through the church and use them at the local Gordy's markets, we can make a real difference in our church budget without spending one red cent more.

Gordy's scrip cards are available in \$100, \$50 and \$25 amounts and the Kwik Trip cards are available in \$50 and \$100 amounts. Both cards are available during office hours, Wednesday evenings and before and after Sunday services.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME COMES AGAIN

Time goes so fast it's hard to believe it's almost time to change our clocks to usher in Daylight Savings time. The big day is Sunday, March 11 when at 2:00 we should turn the clocks ahead one hour. But since you are all good Presbyterians who will be asleep at 2 AM, you can take care of this chore before going to bed. Or you can be late for church. You don't want to do that though so do your clock-resetting on Saturday night.

FPC MEN WORK ON HURRICANE CLEAN UP

Two members of our Presbyterian Men's Club joined others from all over the Presbytery for a work trip to Southern Louisiana from February 17 to 23 to assist in the clean up after Hurricane Katrina.

Volunteers performed a variety of construction-related jobs including drywall, flooring, painting, siding and roofing.

Erik Anderson and Rich Koepke represented FPC on this work trip.

FISH FRY AGAIN DECLARED A SUCCESS

Presbyterian Men once again scored a success with the February 14 fish fry.

They served 58 meals for a total of \$530.00.

Was it a lot of work? You bet! Was it worth it? To hear the comments from the community members who attended, yes it was!

EMPTY BOWLS

A Benefit for Feed My People Food Bank Thursday, March 1 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.



at Florian Gardens 2340 Lorch Ave, Eau Claire

Please join in supporting the 18th annual **EMPTY BOWLS** benefit for **Feed My People Food Bank** at Florian Gardens in Eau Claire. For a donation of \$20 you will receive a handcrafted bowl made by UW-Eau Claire art students, soup made by local restaurants, breads, dessert and a beverage. The meal alone is \$8, children under 10 are free.

Proceeds from this event help thousands of people struggling with hunger in the Chippewa Valley. While Feed My People doesn't supply food to individuals, they support food pantries in the Chippewa Valley like ours at FPC.

Tickets are available online at www.fmpfoodbank.org or at the door. Bowls are limited, so reserve yours early.

First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry in partnership with Feed My People.

The Presbytery of Northern Waters



PRESBYTERY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Presbytery of Northern Waters held its Winter Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, Duluth on Saturday, February 3, 2018. The weather was cold with a light snow, but nearly everyone who planned to come was able to make it. There were 47 people in attendance for our meeting and were warmly welcomed by members of the host church.

Vice Moderator Mary Voss conducted a brief orientation for first-time commissioners. We plan to continue this tradition so that new commissioners have a better chance to understand what goes on at the Presbytery Meeting. CRE Betty Starkey conducted a Gathering for Prayer before the meeting began.

The featured speaker was the Reverend Corey Larsen, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Ely. He spoke about websites for churches and the effects of social media for congregations.

The Presbytery voted to restore Steve Spina to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament. Reverend Spina had requested to set aside his ordination in 1995. He is presently working with a congregation in the United Methodist District in Michigan.

Council Chair Leslie Anderson introduced the Reverend Ken Ribe as the newest member of the Presbytery staff. Ken began his work as the Presbyter for Pastoral Care on February 1. Ken is an Honorably Retired member of the Presbytery with homes in Minnetonka and Castle Danger. Most recently, Ken was Interim Pastor in Hibbing. Ken's primary duties are to be in contact with pastors and CREs serving our churches. He plans to be contacting all of these individuals to introduce

himself and how he can be of help, as soon as practical

The Presbytery had a spirited discussion regarding a proposed modification to the Bylaws. Currently, people elected to service on committees are allowed to service no more than 6 years (2 3-year terms) on that committee before having a required hiatus of at least a year. The proposal to remove the mandatory time off to give more flexibility when the Nominating Committee has trouble filling positions. The vote was 17 in favor of the change and 16 against. An understanding that the proposal passed based on a majority in favor turned out to be in error. The Bylaws require a 2/3 favorable vote to change the Bylaws, so this proposal failed.

The Reverend E Bradley Carlross and Ruling Elder Jay Wilkinson were installed as Stated Clerk and Treasurer, respectively, for 3-year terms that began on January 1, 2018. We also commissioned those going on the PDA mission trip to Louisiana later this month.

Treasurer Jay Wilkinson spoke to the year-end financial statements and to the written report submitted by Finance & Budget Committee Chair Bill Gravelle. We ended the year with a surplus of a little over \$39,000 due to the changes made in our administrative time spent in the office.

Any of the reports from the meeting can be sent to you by contacting either Jay Wilkinson (j.jay.wilkinson@gmail.com) or Ann at the Presbytery office (office@northernwaters.net) or by calling the Presbytery office.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 3, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church, Ely, MN. Hope to see you there.

March Schedules

March 4 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 5
Led by Erik Anderson and Kevin Litten

Communion Servers – Gene Peissig, Lynda Butek, Corine Boos, Beth Cripe, Erik Anderson

Worship Leader – Jeannette Miller

Welcome Desk – Margi Kohl

Flower Provider – Karel Hanhart in honor of Lynn Hopkins and Johnny Hopkins

March 7 – Wednesday

Lasagna or Surprise by Team 5 –
Presbyterian Men

March 11 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 6
Led by Bonnie Gullickson and Pat Andress

Worship Leader – Esther Frazier

Welcome Desk – Barbara Meredith

Flower Provider –

March 14 – Wednesday

Chef's Choice by Team 7 –
Ryan and Sara Reemtsma

March 18 – Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 7
Led by Mitch Mandelert and Kathi Mandelert

Worship Leader – Erik Anderson

Welcome Desk – Jean Peissig

Flower Provider – Bob Denman in honor of his brother, Larry's, birthday March 20

March 21 – Wednesday

Chef's Choice by Team 8 – The Teskes

March 25 - Sunday

Hospitality Team – Team 8
Led by Gene Peissig and Beth Cripe

Potluck following service

Worship Leader – Gene Peissig

Welcome Desk – Anne Welke

Flower Provider –

March 28 – Wednesday

Soupspuds by Team 1 – Margi Kohl,
Corine Boos and Lynda Butek